

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended): Method for the conversion of a cytosine base, in a nucleic acid to an uracil base comprising ~~the steps of~~:
 - a) providing a solution that contains a nucleic acid,
 - b) providing guanidinium hydrogen sulfite and preparing a solution comprising guanidinium and sulfite ions,
 - c) mixing the solutions from step a) and b),
 - d) incubating the solution obtained in step c) containing the nucleic acid and guanidinium and sulfite ions whereby the nucleic acid is deaminated,
 - e) incubating the deaminated nucleic acid under alkaline conditions whereby the deaminated nucleic acid is desulfonated, and
 - f) isolating the deaminated nucleic acid.
2. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the concentration of guanidinium ions and sulfite ions is between 0.1 to 8 M, ~~preferably 2 to 8 M.~~
3. (currently amended): The method according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 2 claim 1, characterized in that wherein~~ the pH of the solutions in step b) and c) is less than 7.0, ~~in the acidic range, preferably between 4.5 to 6.5.~~
4. (currently amended): The method according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 3 claim 1, characterized in that wherein~~ the incubation temperature in step d) and e) is between 0 °C ~~to and~~ 90 °C, ~~preferably between 18 °C to 90 °C.~~
5. (currently amended): The method according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 4 claim 1, characterized in that wherein~~ the incubation time in step d) is between 30 min ~~to and~~ 48 hours ~~preferably 24 hours.~~
6. (currently amended): The method according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 5 claim 1, characterized in that the wherein~~ step e) is performed by adding an alkaline solution or buffer, ~~preferably a solution containing a hydroxide, preferably sodium hydroxide, or a~~

solution containing ethanol, sodium chloride and sodium hydroxide, preferably a solution containing 38% (volume/volume) ethanol, 100 mM NaCl, 200 mM NaOH.

7. (currently amended): The method according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 6, claim 1 characterized in that wherein~~ the incubation temperature in step e) is between 0 °C to ~~and 90 °C, preferably between 18 °C to 90 °C.~~

8. (currently amended): The method according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 7 claim 1, characterized in that wherein~~ the incubation time in step e) is between 5 min to ~~and~~ 60 min.

9 – 12 Canceled.

13. (currently amended): A kit containing guanidinium hydrogen sulfite and plasticware for performing a reaction in which a cytosine base in a nucleic acid is converted to a uracil base.

14 Canceled.